



PARAMEDIC BLOOD DRAW FOR CHEMICAL TESTING AT THE REQUEST OF A PEACE OFFICER

Specialty Program

PURPOSE

To allow ICEMA accredited paramedics, not employed by fire departments, to withdraw blood samples at the request of a sworn peace officer for the purpose of chemical testing from persons suspected of driving under the influence.

Per California Vehicle Code 23158 (k): paramedics employed by fire departments are not allowed to draw blood for a peace officer.

AUTHORITY

Title 22; Division 9, Chapter 4, Section 100145.

Vehicle Code Section 23158

Vehicle Code section 23158, sub. (d),

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no . . . certified paramedic . . . shall incur any civil or criminal liability as a result of the administering of a blood test in a reasonable manner in a hospital, clinical laboratory, medical clinic environment, jail, or law enforcement facility, according to accepted venipuncture practices, without violence by the person administering the test, and when requested in writing by a peace officer to administer the test.

POLICY

Upon completion of an agreement with the employing ALS agency and with the approval of ICEMA, allow paramedics to draw blood at the request of law enforcement for chemical testing.

At no time will the request for blood draw for alcohol level take precedence over the medical treatment of the patient.

PROCEDURE

An EMT-P, at the request of law enforcement, may draw blood for chemical testing if the following conditions are met:

1. The employing ALS agency received ICEMA approval following submittal for a Specialty/Optional Scope Program to draw blood at the request of law enforcement.

2. The request must be in writing from the Peace Officer.
3. Blood Draw Kits will be supplied by the law enforcement agency.
4. The procedure will be performed based on standard practice, pursuant to the directions on the supplied kit (benzalkonium chloride) and documented as such. The obtained sample will be the property of the arresting officer.
5. A patient care record must be completed for all requests and include, at a minimum, the following information:
 - a. Patient name
 - b. Sex
 - c. Date and time
 - d. Name of requesting Peace Officer
 - e. Brief medical history including medications and allergies.
 - f. Vital signs
 - g. Brief narrative including the kit number, skin preparation used, and location of the blood draw.
 - h. If a second needle stick is required, the site and skin preparation will be documented.
 - i. The patient's consent for the procedure and the Peace Officer's request for the procedure will also be documented with the name and badge number of the Peace Officer.
6. Base Station contact is not required unless there is a medical necessity.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

1. Patient history of an allergy to the antiseptic used in the Kit, or to Betadine. The EMT-P must refuse the request to draw and inform the Peace Officer of the situation.
2. If the patient is on anti-coagulant therapy, direct pressure will be held on the site for at least one (1) full minute. A pressure dressing will be applied.
3. No blood draws will be performed on patients with hemophilia.

4. No blood draws will be performed on combative persons.
5. If the patient refuses the blood draw for any reason, the paramedic will document and stop procedure immediately. The medic is not allowed to draw blood on a struggling or restrained patient. The patient must be cooperative.

TRAINING

Paramedics will be required to participate in a training program focusing on proper preparation of the blood draw site and required documentation.

Additional documentation:

1. A log will be kept of all blood draws for DUI by the paramedic employer for QI purposes.
2. The EMT-P should provide his or her name and any other information needed to complete the *Blood Draw Request Form* from the law enforcement agency.